

Daniella wrote, "Dear Navy soldiers, I wanted to tell you thanks for being our hero, representing our country. Thanks for everything you have done. It is amazing. Thanks for fighting for peace in the United States. Thank you so much for everything, and thanks for being our hero."

Mr. Speaker, when I visited this school yesterday, I learned that our young children, who have the same opinions that many of their parents do and many Members of Congress do, have a vitally important opportunity, despite those opinions, to show what counts, and that is support for our troops. These young students at the Finley Middle School had the opportunity not only to show that support but also to give expression to their feelings, to ask some questions; and, ultimately, I hope that that gave them a sense that they can engage in the great issues of our time, that they can venture an opinion, that that opinion counts, and that they can give some solace and some comfort to people who are fighting for their future in far away and dangerous places.

I want to thank the teachers, the administrators, and the students of that school; and I want to thank the people that they sent e-mails to just yesterday.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE VOTE FOR A TAX CUT DURING A TIME OF DEFICIT AND WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I traveled to the district after our vote on the budget, and there were sincere questions that came from many of the people in the district why we would do what we had done. I felt it was necessary to address this body again about the comments that we heard and the responses to that.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would remind this body that when we discuss such things as a budget, we should discuss, first of all, principles, that is, values. We should remember, Mr. Speaker, that this Nation was founded on the principle of freedom; but without economic freedom, no other freedoms really make a difference. It is economic freedoms that allow us access to the other freedoms granted by our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Members that property rights, private

property rights, are one of the most significant aspects of our Constitution. They are one of the significant components of our economic freedoms.

So as we discuss our budget, we should remember that economic freedoms, that our constitutionally given private property rights, are a very important concept. They are the basis of the hopes and dreams, of the opportunities that this country makes.

A generation can dream for itself and then dream for its children and dream for its grandchildren. I know that is one of the greatest things that people knock on the door to get into America to achieve, to reach out for those economic freedoms, and the other freedoms of their daily lives. Mr. Speaker, as we reach those dreams, we should always be mindful that the dreams should be made ever-increasingly accessible to those who have not had them.

Mr. Speaker, I think, as we discuss the budget, we should recognize other basic principles, that is, basic, recognizable truths.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would say that America is overtaxed. It is not that America is undertaxed; it is that Washington overspends that causes the difficult situation facing us today.

My daughter graduated from college several years ago. She received her first paycheck. She called in indignation. I was serving as a State representative. She thought we could cure such things. She said, I am paying more in taxes than for rent, entertainment, and food combined. She said, what can you do about that? I said, well, I registered Republican. I do not know what you will do.

I would say one of the greatest principles we have here today is winning the war on terror. As we discuss the budget, we would want to understand that.

Another recognizable truth, Mr. Speaker, is that when the government spends an accumulated 20 to 25 percent of the gross domestic product, that an economy begins to stall. It becomes stagnant. We are seeing that model lived out in the socialist economies of Europe. We are very near the 22 percent limit that most economists suggest is an upward limit for vibrant growth, I would say.

I think another recognizable truth is that many of our corporations, because of our tax policies, are no longer competitive. They begin, before they even invest their first dollar, with a 10 percent or 12 percent disadvantage in the world markets.

So, Mr. Speaker, I voted for that budget because we began to cut spending and exercise fiscal restraint, and we did it while holding some of the basic programs harmless.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great curiosity why we would, in times of deficit, vote for a tax cut. I would just remind the Members that tax cuts are like investments. If we as individuals want more income in the future, we would

invest a portion of our current income. We would forgo consumption in the current time to invest it into the future.

Mr. Speaker, tax cuts are the investments in the future for our government. We send the money back to a generation, that they would be able to spend it and use it in consumption, driving up demand, increasing jobs. It is not just enough to increase that demand in the short run, Mr. Speaker; we have to increase it in the long run. So the tax cuts that we offered were permanent, extending into the future.

A tax cut also needs scope. It needs largeness. That is where the dividend tax cut comes in, Mr. Speaker. It also helps as far as business investment. One of the most significant aspects of this tax cut is that it has a size and scope to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, the tax cut will fuel the economy into the future. The growth of the economy will result in greater revenues for the current time; and by forgoing current consumption, investing in a tax cut, we grow the size of the economy so we will have more revenues in the future. With that, we will balance the budget.

UNREAL BUDGET PASSED IN HOUSE ENDANGERS OUR ARMED FORCES, AMERICA'S FAMILIES AT HOME, AND OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week, as our Nation engaged in war in Iraq, this House voted to approve a budget resolution for fiscal year 2004 that seriously jeopardizes the health, well-being, and security of our families, our economy, and our communities. It is a budget that benefits the few, the wealthy, and those who are not in need at the cost of working families, the young, the vulnerable, the aged, and the sick. It is a budget that puts both our present and our future at risk.

I do not know what world those who supported the budget live in, but it certainly is not the real world. In the real world, our economy is in trouble. We face massive budget deficits, and our States are confronting the worst fiscal condition in over 50 years.

In the real world, our communities are laying off teachers, police, and firefighters. In the real world, our infrastructure needs repair and modernization. In the real world, our families need quality schools and child care. In the real world, our current and future veterans deserve health care and other support. In the real world, our Social Security and Medicare systems are in financial crisis.

It is past time for this Congress to debate how to meet our obligations; not a time for silence, cynicism, and accounting tricks.

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot afford the tax cuts passed in the Republican